

# the Bull Sheet

John Gurke, CGCS, Contributing Editor

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8-10 — Midwest Regional Turf Expo (Purdue) in Indianapolis, IN. More below...

January 17-18 — GCSAA's "Managing On The Job Behavior" seminar (1.4 CEUs) in Oak Brook, IL.

January 17-19 — Mid-America Horticultural Trade Show at Navy Pier, Chicago, IL.

January 22 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Poplar Creek Country Club, **Luke Strojny, CGCS** host.

January 23-24 — Golf Industry Hockey Tournament in Ontario, Canada.

February 14-15 — MAGCS Hospitality Suite at Adam's Mark Hotel, 6 to 9 p.m. in Dallas, TX during the GCSAA International Conference and Show.

March 20 — MAGCS monthly meeting at Schaumburg Golf Club, **Nick Hongisto** host.

As mentioned above, the Midwest Regional Turf Expo will take place January 8-10 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis. MAGCS's own **Dudley Smith** will be honored as the recipient of the 2001 Distinguished Service Award. The MRTF will be hosting a luncheon on Wednesday, January 10 and provide recognition for

Dudley's accomplishments and contribution to the MRTF. For more information, contact Beverly Bratton at the MRTF office at 765-494-8038.

Congratulations, Dudley—there can not be a more deserving recipient for this honor!

Also mentioned above is the January monthly meeting at "Not Arrowhead" Golf Club (now known as Poplar Creek Country Club in Hoffman Estates). This meeting's education session will be a presentation by **Tim Kelly** of the FINALIZED version of GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative (PDI). At this meeting, all MAGCS voting members will cast their ballots to determine how we as an association vote at the conference and show in Dallas next month. You can refer back to last month's Director's Column by **Fred Behnke** to review the procedure we will employ. Everyone who wishes to have a say in how we vote as an association should attend this meeting!

The North Central Turfgrass Exposition (NCTE), held last month in St. Charles, was another success. Of special note was the great diversity and quality of educational presentations offered. Many of our MAGCS members participated in these sessions, including **Tim Davis** of Shoreacres, **Dave Ward, CGCS** of Olympia Fields Country Club, **Dr. Randy Kane** of CDGA, and all the good doctors from the University of Illinois and

Southern Illinois University (including our pal **Luke Cella, Drs. Tom Voigt, Andy Hamblin, Tom Fermanian, Hank Wilkinson** and **Bruce Branham**). One of the highlights of the event was the ITF Awards Luncheon, where all those big checks get donated for turfgrass research and scholarships. **Dale Habenicht**, founder of H & E Sod, was this year's recipient of the ITF Distinguished Service Award, which was presented by his son, **Darin Habenicht**, in a touching testimonial. Congratulations to all scholarship winners, to Dale Habenicht and to Jack Lagerhausen and the folks at ITF for another fine event.

This item was passed along to me by an unnamed superintendent, who points out that if one's crew decides to string yellow rope through the woods at a height of, say, five feet, with slip knots in it so as to snare a large, say, ten-point buck if it were to stumble into it causing it to become hopelessly entangled by its rack, for the purpose of enjoying a hearty venison holiday meal, one's crew should advise him of said plan, so that one does not take a pole saw and cut the deer loose thinking it has become entangled by accident. This can make one's crew VERY upset.

If, in the same week, one's crew surrounds a yearling doe against the maintenance building wall with visions of another holiday venison meal (albeit smaller portions) and the doe in question becomes imaginative and jumps through the window into the lunchroom (albeit prematurely, as she is still breathing and contains all her vital organs), then proceeds to kick the lunchroom into a pile of shattered drywall before continuing on to the bathroom, producing the same result before finding a door

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to make her exit, one's crew would find that this would make the boss VERY upset.

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An update from past editor **Fred Opperman** up in Big Sky Country arrived recently. Having just received his 35-year pin from GCSAA, Fred remarks, "My, how time flies." He adds, "You know, I was one of the first 40 [superintendents] in the country to be certified and the first president of the MAGCS to be certified. A bunch of those first 40 were grandfathered in. I think **Oscar [Miles]** was the only other one from the MAGCS who also took the test at that time [when I did]. The year was 1972."

Fred has been up to his usual easy retirement life, which includes landscaping his house (with the assistance of a Penn State grad—is there anything they can't do?); working one-two days a week for Habitat for Humanity on four homes currently under construction; fly-fishing once or twice a week with the gear MAGCS gave him at his retirement party; hiking on Tuesdays with a group of retired guys into the high meadows (where, he notes, in July you can't take a step without stepping on a flower); and some light travel, including a visit to his son Todd at a large fire camp in Salmon, Idaho where he managed a helicopter on the Clear Cut fire (about 400,000+ acres of fire running between Idaho and Montana). Fred's home was spared from the wildfires, but his usually-stunning mountain vistas were blanketed by smoke from the more than 1 million acres of fire. But wait—there's more . . . Fred and his wife Judy also visited New Zealand in October, where they drove more than 3,600 miles venturing about the beautiful countryside before spending Thanksgiving in the

Grand Canyon at their son and daughter-in-law's home. Ah, the life of retirement sounds boring, doesn't it? You can keep in touch with Fred at opperman@avicom.net.

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Heartfelt condolences go out from MAGCS to the family of one of our members who recently passed away. **Don Strode** of Don's Sharpening Centre in Batavia died of pancreatic cancer late last year, leaving daughter Brenda to run the business. Don was a good neighbor to all of us in the Fox Valley, and a truly nice man—he'll be missed.

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Just when you thought it was over comes another report of an Asian long-horned beetle infestation in our midst. A grove of 22 scrub trees adjacent to O'Hare Airport was discovered to be infested, and was destroyed in December, bringing the total number of trees removed in the Chicago area to 1,370. If only these critters were trainable . . .

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Congratulations to president of Autumn Tree Care, **Matthew Dziedzic**, on his elevation to presidency of the Illinois Arborist Association for 2001. Autumn Tree Care also recently promoted Dan Klindera to the position of vice president, where he will focus on organization and structure.

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**Fernando Fernandez, Sr., CGCS** weighs in with an announcement that bilingual classes in Pesticide Operator, Pesticide Applicator and Turf Management will begin the week of January 22 in the North Shore area. Pesticide Operator and Pesticide Applicator courses comprise 30 hours of training; the Turf Management class is 48 hours of training. For information on cost, location, dates and times, please contact

Fernando at 847-705-5738 or 847-204-6225 (mobile); fax at 847-705-8574; or e-mail at Elpayo@msn.com

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For sale: 1994 Ty-Crop TD400 4-cu.yd. Topdresser in excellent condition. Asking \$7,000 OBO. Contact Darin Habenicht (not Hoffman as was previously printed—sorry) at H & E Sod at 815-472-2364.

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For sale: Smithco Sprayer. 125-gallon low profile/PTO-driven with 18-foot boom and newer Hypro pump. Asking \$500 OBO. Call Ed Braunsky at 630-232-0627. Mention you're a Vikings fan and it's free . . .

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Position available: Established North Shore tree maintenance company has employment opportunity for professional mechanic. Primary responsibilities will include maintaining Husqvarna saws and equipment, and providing sales and service to our golf course and park district clientele. Top compensation, vacation, bonus, 401K, medical, dental insurance and paid holidays. Fax resumes to Nels J. Johnson Tree Experts, Inc. at 847-475-0037, or call Joel Johnson at 847-475-1877.

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For sale: Seven 1998 Jac T-handle walkers w/groomers (mint); Two 1991 Jac 1684 bank mowers; Two 1991 J.D. trap rakes; One 1986 Jac sweeper; 150 gallons of Niad; One Toro 7-gang pull-reel mower; One 1967 Ford LCG tractor; One FMC 300-gallon sprayer w/foam marker and MT 3000 monitor (tow behind). Call Mike at B.C.C., 630-323-2734, for prices & great deals.